

1 Claims2 ~~RECEIVED AT THE PCT/EP OFFICE 21 JUL 2004~~

3 1. A process for treating a surface to clean or
4 otherwise treat the surface, the process being of
5 the type which employs a treating agent comprising a
6 plurality of particles, the process comprising the
7 step of contacting the surface with the treatment
8 agent such that at least some of the particles roll
9 along at least a portion of the surface, wherein an
10 angle of incidence of the particles and the surface
11 is between 0° and 60° , wherein the particles are
12 dimensioned to effect a rolling movement along the
13 surface, and wherein the treating agent is
14 substantially non-aqueous.

15

16 2. A process as claimed in Claim 1, in which the
17 particles are non-crystalline.

18

19 3. A process as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 in which the
20 particles comprise a precipitate or agglomerate of
21 an insoluble alkali metal carbonate.

22

23 4. A process as claimed in any preceding Claim in
24 which the particles are generally round.

25

26 5. A process as claimed in any preceding Claim which
27 is a blasting operation.

28

29 6. A process as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 4
30 which employs manual application of the treating
31 agent.

32

1 7. The use of the process of the invention in dental
2 applications such as teeth whitening, plaque removal
3 and general cleaning or polishing of the teeth,
4 buccal cavity and prosthetic parts such as crowns,
5 bridges and complete or partial dentures.

6

7 8. The use of the process of the invention in
8 treating bone.

9

10 9. The use of the process of the invention to
11 exfoliate skin.

12

13 10. An agent for treating a surface to clean or
14 otherwise treat the surface, the agent being of the
15 type comprising a plurality of particles, the
16 particles being dimensioned to effect a rolling
17 movement along a surface, wherein the treating agent
18 is substantially non-aqueous.

19

20 11. A treating agent according to Claim 10 in which
21 the particles comprise a precipitate or agglomerate
22 of an insoluble alkali metal carbonate,

23

24 12. A treating agent according to Claim 10 or 11,
25 wherein the particles are non-crystalline

26

27 13. A treating agent according to any of Claims 10
28 to 12 for use in dental applications such as teeth
29 whitening, plaque removal and general teeth
30 cleaning.

31

1 14. A treating agent according to any of Claims 10
2 to 12 for use in treating bone.

3

4 15. A cleaning agent according to any of Claims 10
5 to 12 for use exfoliating skin.

6